

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

IO-12 CU-04 AID-20 NSC-10 USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PC-15 RSR-01 /168 W
----- 078579

R 161315 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8112

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2102

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: YOUTH PARA

REF: A. STATE 070302 ; B. SD-1787

FOLLOWING NARRATIVE RESPONSES COMPLEMENT STATISTICS PROVIDED
IN REF B :

I. YOUTH CATEGORIES

B. DOMINICAN SOCIETY IS PREDOMINANTLY CONSERVATIVE AND TRADITIONAL IN ALL ITS SECTORS. DESPITE THIS CULTURAL HOMOGENEITY, ITS SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS TEND TO BE WEAK AND ITS POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS HIGHLY PERSONALISTIC AND RIDDLED WITH FACTIONALISM. IN SUCH AN ENVIROMENT, POLITICAL AND OTHER LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT IS HIGHLY DIFFUSED AND IRREGULAR. AS A RESULT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WITH CONFIDENCE THE ORIGINS OR CAREER PATTERNS OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS. WE HAVE CHOSEN, THEREFORE, TO RECOGNIZE SEVERAL AVENUES OF POSSIBLE ADVANCEMENT TO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP AND TO RATE NEARLY ALL OF THEM IN THE FIVE TO TEN PERCENT RANGE.

THE MAJOR EXCEPTIONS ARE YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS AND YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS. THE FORMER ARE FREQUENTLY ABLE TO GAIN NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND TO ASSUME POSITIONS OF RELATIVE IMPORTANCE WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES AND IN THE GOVERNMENT. YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE ALSO BEEN ACCORDED A SOMEWHAT HEAVIER WEIGHT
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BECAUSE THE MILITARY, WITH ITS ACCESS TO ELEMENTS OF COERCION, THE GREAT RESPECT WHICH THE UNIFORM COMMANDS AMONG DOMINICANS, AND ITS SOMEWHAT GREATER INSTITUTIONAL DISCIPLINE AND SENSE OF GROUP IDENTITY, PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DOMINICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. INDEED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW ANY DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT COULD SURVIVE FOR LONG WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY.

IN ADDITION, CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD YOUNG BUREAUCRATS, YOUNG FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION MEMBERS AT THE DR' S THREE MAJOR UNIVERSITIES, AND YOUNG MEDIA PEOPLE. THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE UNIVERSITIES ARE, OF COURSE, KEY ELEMENTS IN DOMINICAN EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. YOUNG PEOPLE PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RECENTLY- DEVELOPED AND RELATIVELY FREE MEDIA IN THE DR AND THEREBY HAVE A HAND IN SHAPING BASIC ATTITUDES AND TRANSMITTING INFORMATION TO THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE.

C. ASSUMING THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER IS REELECTED IN 19 74 , IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT ANY YOUTH GROUP OR ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON U. S. INTERESTS IN THE NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS.

II.

B. OUR ESSENTIAL INTEREST IN THE DR IS TO PREVENT CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY BY A HOSTILE THIRD POWER. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, GIVEN PRIORITY TO CREATING AND MAINTAINING FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U. S., AND TO FOSTERING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BE CONGRUENT WITH OUR ESSENTIAL INTEREST .

IN THE LIGHT OF THE DR' S RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE SHOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO FOSTER A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO BILATERAL TRADE AND U. S. INVESTMENTS IN FUTURE YEARS. THE DR IS POTENTIALLY OUR BEST MARKET IN THE CARIBBEAN AND PRESENTLY ENJOYS A BALANCE OF TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE US.

WHILE RECOGNIZING OUR LIMITED POLITICAL LEVERAGE AND THE DANGERS INHERENT IN TOO DIRECT INVOLVEMENT, WE SHOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE MODERATE, DEMOCRATIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

III. RESOURCES

B. N/ A

C. N/ A

D. PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTE PERIPHERALLY TO THE MISSION
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YOUTH EFFORT INSOFAR AS THEY CREATE FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS AMONG DOMINICAN YOUTH. PREVAILING DOMINICAN SENSITIVITIES AND SUSPICIONS MAKE IT INADVISABLE TO SEEK TO

INTEGRATE PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES MORE CLOSELY INTO THE MISSION'S YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

IV. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH

B. WE RATED THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH AS " LOW" BECAUSE:

- 1) THEIR ATTITUDES DO NOT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE OF THEIR ELDERS. THEY ARE GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE AND AGGRESSIVELY MATERIALISTIC AND CAREER- ORIENTED;
 - 2) THE EDUCATION SYSTEM TENDS TO REINFORCE THE PREVAILING CULTURE AND HAS FAILED TO PRODUCE A NEW GENERATION SIGNIFICANTLY MORE CAPABLE THAN THE OLDER ONE;
 - 3) YOUNG PEOPLE ARE FREQUENTLY COOPTED EARLY IN THEIR CAREERS INTO POLITICAL, GOVERNMENT, OR OTHER POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE. AS A RESULT, THE EMBASSY HAS REGULAR DEALINGS WITH MANY PERSONS WHO HAVE REACHED POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AT RELATIVELY EARLY AGES;
 - 4) DOMINICANS IN POSITIONS OF AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE ARE GENERALLY OPEN TO REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY. IN FACT, SUCH CONTACT IS USUALLY PRIZED AS A SOCIAL ASSET AND MOST DOMINICANS ARE EAGER TO SEE AND BE SEEN WITH US OFFICIALS;
 - 5) OUR STILL SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE - REAL AND IMAGINED " IN THE DR AND OUR HISTORY OF INTERVENTION IN ITS AFFAIRS MAKE UNFEASIBLE THE PROMOTION OF SPECIFIC INTERESTS AND ATTITUDES WITHOUT AROUSING SERIOUS COUNTER- PRODUCTIVE REACTION ESPECIALLY AMONG - BUT NOT LIMITED TO - LEFTIST GROUPS.
- MELOY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTO02102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730545/aaaajgzo.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 070302, SD-1787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980217
Subject: YOUTH PARA
TAGS: PFOR, DR
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005